

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MAY 20, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Acting Chairman Billy E. Traylor and Commissioners Bill Williams, and Warren Yeager. <Chairman Nathan Peters, Jr. and Vice Chairman Carmen L. McLemore were absent.>

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Rebecca L. Norris, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Emergency Management Director Marshall Nelson, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Planner David Richardson, and Public Works Director Gerald Shearer.

Acting Chairman Traylor called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., E.T.

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Chief Administrator Butler discussed a request from the City of Port for reimbursement for work done on the Beaches Sewer project, in the amount of \$472,234.16. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that he met with City Manager Weston and the City will have someone at this meeting to give a status report. Philip Jones, Preble-Rish, Inc. appeared before the Board and gave an update on the Beaches sewer project. Commissioner Williams discussed his concerns with time and elements, stating that the County needs assurance on moving forward on the 2nd and 3rd phases of this project. After discussion by the Board, Chief Administrator Butler recommended that the Board pay any additional work documented as new work (not paid through their Bond with Regions Bank) and is signed-off by Engineers, Auditors, Clerk and Administration, stating that once everyone has signed-off on the invoices there be no delay issuing the check and no need for the Board to hold a meeting to approve. Commissioner Yeager discussed that he has received calls from local vendors about payment, stating that there needs to be an action plan to finish this project. Commissioner Williams discussed that there has to be a plan for Beacon Hill, stating that the Board does not want to hold up the vendors on payment. County Attorney McFarland discussed that the Board has no contractual relationship with the vendors, and that the payments have to be made to the City of Port St. Joe. Commissioner Yeager motioned to pay invoices to the City of Port St. Joe based only on new work (not double billed to Regions Bank) once they have been approved by the Engineer, Auditor, Clerk and Administration. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for discussion. He discussed that the Board has to have clarification on no double billing and also wants a definitive action plan for Beacon Hill, because funds can be shifted between phases/projects. Commissioner Williams discussed that there needs to be time frames, execution dates, where the other funds are coming from, and assurance from the City that this is going to be completed. Commissioner Yeager amended the motion to reflect that there is an action plan included for Beacon Hill. Commissioner Williams stated that his second stands. Acting Chairman Traylor discussed that the vendors need to be

paid as soon as possible, but that there are procedures the Board has to follow. Chief Administrator Butler discussed the Overstreet project, stating that there are residents who paid tap fees two years ago and still are not hooked up on water. Commissioner Williams discussed that the Board can not release the funds until they receive an action plan and make sure it is completed. Commissioner Yeager amended the original motion to reflect that there also be an action plan for Overstreet. After Acting Chairman Traylor discussed 2 amendments to the motion, no objections from the Board, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Commissioner Yeager discussed a tragedy in the Oak Grove community, stating that a house burned causing the death of a seventeen year old, and there is a health and safety issue with the burned structure. He discussed that he has checked with the State Fire Marshall regarding this issue. County Attorney McFarland discussed that this needs to be contingent upon them concluding any criminal investigations and the waiver of liability to go on the property. Commissioner Yeager motioned to allow demolition of this burned structure, contingent upon concluding any criminal investigation and receiving a waiver of liability to go on the property. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Chief Administrator Butler gave a presentation on the Enterprise Zone. He discussed that the Enterprise Zone is governed by the Enterprise Zone Development Agency, stating that the members are Don Butler, Chairman, Danny Raffield, Sandra Chafin, Pauline Pendarvis, Joe Nugent, Kyle Adkison, Alma Paredes, and Alan McNair. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that they meet quarterly, the third Thursday of the first month of each quarter. He also discussed the incentives of the Enterprise Zone, stating that businesses located in the zone can take sales tax credits for 30-45% wages to new employees. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that the Enterprise Zone has changed from 3 square miles, to 5 square miles, to 20 square miles, stating that the current map is the 2005 map. Tom Graney appeared before the Board and discussed that the maps can change every three years, and it must be consistent with the County Economic Development plan. Commissioner Yeager discussed that he would like to include areas in District 5. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that any changes need to be presented to the E.Z.D.A. Keith Jones appeared before the Board and thanked Administration and Board staff for their assistance with the Enterprise Zone. He discussed that the applications have to be completed proper for the Department of Revenue to approve.

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Commissioner Williams discussed that all Commissioners have been contacted by vendors which have not been paid, stating that the vendors have been caught up in this issue. Chief Administrator Butler discussed that he has been informed that the contractor has been paid.

There being no further discussion, and upon motion by Commissioner Williams, the meeting did then adjourn at 12:57 p.m., E.T.

**BILLY E. TRAYLOR
ACTING CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**